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Imagery analysis report

Soviet Supply Base at Pol-E Khomri, Afghanistan (S)

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SOVIET SUPPLY BASE AT POL-E KHOMRI, AFGHANISTAN (S)

1. (S/D) The primary Soviet supply base in northeast Afghanistan is at Pol-E Khomri Soviet Deployment Area [redacted]. Pol-E Khomri is 75 nautical miles (nm) south of the USSR-Afghanistan border and 90 nm north-northwest of Kabul. The installation was first observed [redacted] and has been rapidly expanded into a major supply base. It contains the largest Soviet tactical POL storage area in Afghanistan, an ammunition storage area, a general storage area, a field hospital, a command post, a motor transport regiment, a motorized rifle regiment, and three small support units (Figure 1).

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2. (S/D) The POL storage area is in the southwest corner of the base and contained only collapsible fuel bladders in January 1980. Scarring for POL storage tank construction was first observed in late February, and the first POL storage tanks were seen [redacted]. The expansion of POL storage capacity has been rapid. [redacted] the capacity was tripled but began to level off in late April (Table 1). By mid-May, over 200 fuel bladders and over 500 POL storage tanks of various sizes were in the storage area. The current estimated storage capacity is approximately 16 million liters, which is over one-third of all the Soviet tactical POL storage capacity identified in Afghanistan since the December 1979 invasion.

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Table 1.
Expansion of POL Storage Capacity at Pol-E Khomri Soviet Deployment Area

This table in its entirety is classified SECRET/WNINTEL

Estimated capacity	26 Jan	11 Feb	2 Mar	18 Mar	2 Apr	12 Apr	4 May	12 May
in thousands of liters	1,000	2,200	3,850	8,670	11,670	15,190	15,500	15,900

3. (S/D) The ammunition and general storage areas are in the southeast portion of the base. Construction in the ammunition storage area began in early March 1980. By mid-May, the fence-secured storage area consisted of 21 revetments constructed into the sides of two shallow ravines. The first accumulation of small crates was observed [redacted] in six of the revetments. [redacted] 13 of the revetments contained stacks of small crates. Construction in the general storage area began in early March, and the first accumulation of supplies was observed [redacted]

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4. (S/D) The field hospital was first observed in the northeast portion of the base [redacted]. In early March, the hospital was relocated toward the center of the facility and doubled in size to 60 tents. HIP-C helicopters were on the ground next to the hospital [redacted]

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5. (S/D) The command post is in the northern part of the base and consists of a communications center, a PARK DRIVE mobile communications satellite receiver/transmitter, a TWIN EAR antenna, and an R-410 TWIN PLATE radio relay site. The R-410 TWIN PLATE site is deployed on a ridgeline 0.5 nm north of the communications center. In January 1980, the site contained four deployed R-410 stations; however, a fifth R-410 station was deployed [redacted]. This R-410 site is probably a relay station for troposcatter communications between Kabul and Termez.

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6. (S/D) The motor transport regiment is bivouacked in the center of the base and contains approximately 100 KAMAZ-53202 trucks, over 200 POL trucks, and approximately 100 cargo trucks. Construction in the regimental bivouac and parking area began in late February. Most of the vehicles and over 150 tents were present [redacted]. Most of the KAMAZ-53202 trucks have large storage tanks in the cargo beds; the trucks are probably used to transport POL. Large convoys are frequently observed in formation in the north and south portions of the base.

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7. (S/D) A BTR-70 armored personnel carrier (APC)-equipped motorized rifle regiment was first observed deployed in the southern portion of the base [redacted]. This regiment left the base [redacted] and was replaced by a BTR-60PB-equipped motorized rifle regiment. The new regiment is bivouacked in the southern portion of the base.

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8. (S/D) Defenses around the base currently consist of defensive trenching, revetted tanks and APCs, and artillery firing positions. One motorized rifle battalion and the artillery battalion from the motorized rifle regiment are usually deployed around the base in these positions. The only air defenses observed include four probable ZPU-2 and four ZSU-23/4 air defense weapons (from the air defense battery of the motorized rifle regiment) and an SA-7 missile firing position which was constructed next to the POL storage area in early March.

9. (S/D) The three support units deployed at the supply base are a maintenance unit near the motor transport regiment, deployed in mid-March; a probable chemical defense station in the western portion of the base, deployed in early April; and a field shower unit in the northeast portion of the base, deployed in early May.

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